

## ***News & Notes from the National Institute of Nursing Research: October 2010***

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### **1. NINR's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scientific Symposium Brings Science to Life**

High winds and heavy rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole failed to dampen the enthusiasm of over 500 nurses and other health care scientists, clinicians and interested members of the public who attended NINR's 25th Anniversary scientific symposium, "Bringing Science to Life," on September 30 at the NIH's Ruth L. Kirschstein Auditorium.

Mary Woolley, the president of Research!America, the nation's largest non-profit science advocacy organization, served as the day's mistress of ceremonies. "I have been around and worked with nurse researchers for a long time," she said, "and my respect is unbounded."

Keynote speakers included Dr. Lawrence Tabak, NIH Principal Deputy Director; Dr. Alan Leshner, the CEO of AAAS and executive publisher of the journal *Science*; William Novelli, distinguished professor with the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business and past CEO of AARP; and Dr. Gillian Gill, author of the book "Nightingales: The Extraordinary Upbringing and Curious Life of Miss Florence Nightingale."

The afternoon consisted of presentations by distinguished NINR-supported scientists, including:

- "The critical role sleep need has in health and safety," by Dr. David Dinges of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
- "Management of chronic illnesses in a diverse population," by Dr. Jillian Inouye of the University of Hawaii at Manoa
- "Molecular, cellular, and genetic correlates of neuromuscular dysfunction in muscular dystrophy," by Dr. Susan Dorsey of the University of Maryland
- "Reducing length of NICU stay and improving outcomes in premature infants and parents with COPE," by Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, of Arizona State University.

The speakers then participated in a panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Ann Cashion of the University of Tennessee Science Center, to answer questions from the audience.

The symposium also included over 80 poster presentations from nursing research projects across the nation on topics such as health promotion, pain and symptom management, cancer treatment and survivorship, the nursing workforce, and the genetics of disease.

At the end of the day, Dr. Grady invited Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw, the first director of what was originally the National Center for Nursing Research (NCNR), onto the stage for the unveiling of her portrait. Dr. Grady noted that Dr. Hinshaw's early leadership in planning, research training, and leveraging the

scarce resources of the NCNR were instrumental in elevating the Center to Institute status, “a legacy for which we are all indebted to her.”

The anniversary events will continue throughout the upcoming year, to include a Grand Rounds lecture, the first NINR Director’s Lecture, a joint NINR-NIH Clinical Center conference, a Science in the Cinema event, and a concluding Scientific Symposium next October 2011. Please visit the NINR web site for details: [www.ninr.nih.gov/25years](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/25years).

The NIH videocast of the symposium is available online at <http://videocast.nih.gov/Summary.asp?File=16164>. In addition, selected video highlights and interviews will be posted on the NINR website.

Additional information recapping the event, including speaker bios and scientific poster presentation abstracts is online at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NewsAndInformation/25years/>.

For the latest updates on all of NINR’s 25th Anniversary news and events throughout the fall and into 2011, subscribe to the 25th Anniversary RSS Feed at [www.ninr.nih.gov/Rss](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/Rss), visit [www.ninr.nih.gov/25years](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/25years), or send email to [info@ninr.nih.gov](mailto:info@ninr.nih.gov).

## **2. NINR History Book Documents the Institute’s Genesis and Growth**

NINR is pleased to announce the publication of our first history book in commemoration of the Institute’s 25 years at NIH.

The book explores the origins of NINR, the launching of nursing science at NIH, NINR’s advancement from a Center to an Institute, and how nursing science has progressed in the past quarter century.

The book opens in 1985, shortly after the congressional mandate that established the National Center for Nursing Research (NCNR) at NIH. At this time, fewer than 6 percent of the 4,000 nurses who held doctoral degrees reported their primary function as research due in part to a lack of funding. The underlying cause for the lack of grant support—skepticism that nurses were capable of conducting scientifically rigorous research—represented the profession’s first major obstacle.

Moving forward from this less than ideal infancy, the book explores the people and events that enabled NCNR to evolve into today’s NINR—a sophisticated and accomplished NIH institute. The NINR of 2010 not only sets the research agenda for nursing scientists across the country, but also administers millions of dollars in grants, oversees a vibrant intramural research program, collaborates across the NIH campus on translational research initiatives, and provides leadership on end-of-life and palliative care science. NINR also devotes more resources to training future scientists, as a percentage of budget, than nearly any other NIH institute.

“The story of the NINR recounts the development and use of science to form new constructs of nursing practice—from observation to translation, from nursing care to nursing science, from procedure to practice to policy,” notes Patricia A. Grady, PhD, NINR director, in the book’s preface. “Nurse scientists will always be a key wellspring of the information required so that evidence-based practice and policy can prevail and ensure the delivery of high-quality health care.”

Written with the assistance of an array of historians and nurse scientists and based on dozens of oral histories and hundreds of archived documents, NINR: Bringing Science to Life reminds the reader of a different era. Only a couple of decades ago, health care practice was guided less by scientific discovery than by tradition and trial and error. By the end of the book, the reader learns how the establishment of nursing research at the NIH not only advanced science, but also helped dismantle this and other historical, cultural, and medical hegemonies.

The NINR history book is available for download online at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/NewsAndInformation/NINRPublications/HistoryBook>.

### **3. NINR Anniversary Recognized by the U.S. Senate**

On September 23, 2010, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution recognizing NINR on the occasion of the Institute's 25th anniversary. The resolution, S. Res. 642, congratulated NINR on a quarter century of achievement in science and public service. The resolution was introduced by Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and cosponsored by Senator Susan Collins of Maine.

A companion resolution, H. Res. 1667, was introduced in the House of Representatives on September 28, 2010. The House resolution is sponsored by Representative Lois Capps of California, and co-sponsored by Representatives Steven LaTourette of Ohio and Edolphus Towns of New York.

S. Res. 642 reads, in part:

- “Whereas research funded by the NINR has improved the health outcomes and enhanced the quality of life of the people of the United States by managing disease and relieving symptoms of disease;
- Whereas the NINR is committed to helping to eliminate the health disparities facing minority and disadvantaged populations across the United States;
- Whereas the NINR holds the principal responsibility for end-of-life research conducted at the National Institutes of Health; and
- Whereas the NINR spends a remarkable 7 percent of the budget of the NINR on training new researchers, ensuring that the number of nurse scientists and the faculty educating the next generation of professional nursing students continues to grow: Now, therefore, be it
- **Resolved**, That the Senate--
- congratulates the National Institute of Nursing Research on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and
- commends the National Institute of Nursing Research for its ongoing support of nursing research, which is integral to the health of the people of the United States.”

The full text of the resolution is online at <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.RES.642:>.

#### 4. *American Journal of Nursing* Cover Story Marks NINR's Anniversary

The *American Journal of Nursing* (AJN) honored NINR's 25th anniversary with an editorial by NINR Director Dr. Patricia A. Grady and a historic timeline of NINR's growth in its October, 2010 issue.

In the article, Dr. Grady detailed NINR's past achievements, while noting the challenges ahead: "Although our work has improved quality-of-life and health outcomes across all settings and has brought biobehavioral research to prominence among the health sciences, we know there's much more to accomplish. Current challenges include the need to accelerate the translation of research findings into evidence-based practice; to eliminate health care disparities; to create seamless, efficient means of patient care coordination and transition; and to better mitigate and manage multiple, chronic comorbidities. Even as we face these challenges, we can be certain that new ones will arise—challenges that will continue to require our ingenuity and steadfast determination to overcome them."

The AJN article also featured a timeline of NINR's history and a podcast interview of Dr. Grady by AJN editor-in-chief Maureen Shawn Kennedy, MA, RN.

The AJN's complete coverage of NINR's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary can be found online at [http://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2010/10000/The\\_National\\_Institute\\_of\\_Nursing\\_Research\\_at\\_25.1.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/ajnonline/Fulltext/2010/10000/The_National_Institute_of_Nursing_Research_at_25.1.aspx).

#### 5. New NIH Funding Opportunity: NIH Early Independence Award Program

The NIH Common Fund announces the highly selective **NIH Director's Early Independence** Award Program to provide a mechanism for exceptional, early career scientists who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to omit traditional post-doctoral training and move into independent academic positions at U.S. institutions directly upon completion of their graduate degrees (PhD, MD, or equivalent). The NIH expects to issue 10 awards through this program in fall 2011.

NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins authored a commentary, "Scientists Need a Shorter Path to Research Freedom," explaining why the NIH is launching a bid to help some doctoral students dramatically reduce the time required to start an independent career, which can be read in the journal *Nature*, Vol.467, 7 October 2010 <http://www.nature.com/news/2010/101006/full/467635a.html>.

Early Independence Awards are targeted to exceptional junior investigators with the intellect, scientific creativity, drive, and maturity to flourish independently without the need for traditional post-doctoral training. Early Independence Award projects will receive up to \$250,000 in direct costs each year for up to five years.

Junior scientists may identify a host institution and contact them directly to negotiate a position. Alternatively, institutions may actively recruit exceptional junior scientists to apply for these positions. In either case, the institution must be willing to nurture the investigator as an independent researcher including the provision of independent lab space. An institution may elect to host an applicant for this program with the commitment to a position being contingent upon receipt of the award. These awards will be very selective, and each institution may only submit two applications.

**The deadline for submitting Early Independence Award applications is January 21, 2011. Letters of Intent are due December 21, 2010.** See the instructions in the RFA (RFA-RM-10-19).

Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions about the Early Independence Investigators Award Program is available at: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/earlyindependence>. Send questions to [earlyindependence@mail.nih.gov](mailto:earlyindependence@mail.nih.gov).

## **6. NINR Invites Applications for the 2011 Graduate Partnerships Program**

The NINR Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP) is a doctoral fellowship training program that coordinates training and funding for doctoral students attending a school of nursing supported by an NINR-funded Institutional Research Training (T32) grant. The program combines the academic environment of a university and the breadth and depth of research at NIH.

**Please note:** To be eligible for the NINR GPP, the applicant must currently attend (or be accepted to) a school of nursing supported by a T32 grant funded by NINR.

Application instructions and answers to frequently asked questions are available online at (<https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/gpp/appinfo>).

The application period for the NINR GPP is now open and will close on Jan. 3, 2011.

**For more information, please contact:**

Dr. Natalie A. Rasmussen  
Intramural Research Training Director, Assistant Clinical Investigator  
Email: [rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov](mailto:rasmussenna@mail.nih.gov)

## **7. Current Funding Opportunity Announcements and Notices**

All current NINR Funding Opportunity Announcements, including Requests for Applications (RFAs) and Program Announcements (PAs), as well as Notices of interest from NIH, are available on the NINR website at <http://www.ninr.nih.gov/ResearchAndFunding/DEA/OEP/FundingOpportunities/default.htm>.

These items can also be found in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts:  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>.

**Recent opportunities of note include:**

**NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet) Short-term Interdisciplinary Training Program for New and Early-Stage Investigators**  
RFA-NR-11-002

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NR-11-002.html>

**Mechanisms, Models, Measurement, & Management in Pain Research (R01, R21, R03)**  
PA-10-006 (PA-10-007, PA-10-008)  
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-10-006.html>

**Research on Clinical Decision Making in People with or at Risk for Life-Threatening Illness (R21)**  
PA-09-121

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-121.html>

## **8. Former NINR Intramural Researchers to Present at Grand Rounds**

As part of NINR's 25th Anniversary commemorative events, former NINR Intramural Research Program (IRP) scientists Dr. Jessica Gill and Dr. Taura Barr will present at NIH Clinical Center Grand Rounds on Wednesday, November 3, 2010.

Gill is an assistant professor at George Mason University's School of Nursing and Krasnow Institute, and a special volunteer at NINR. Gill's program of research examines resiliency and vulnerability factors for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in civilians and armed services members to better understand the psychological, physiological, and molecular-genetic correlates of both risk and resilience. Gill also examines that impact of traumatic brain injuries in civilian and military samples to better determine the overlap in co-morbidity with PTSD and the resulting risk for long-term neurological complications.

Barr, an Assistant Professor at the West Virginia University School of Nursing and Center for Neuroscience and Special Volunteer with NINR, specializes in the use of genomic technologies for the characterization and treatment of neurological disease, particularly in the field of biomarkers. She will be presenting on her research team's recent identification of a gene panel for stroke diagnostics and outcome prediction and provide discussion on opportunities for other neurological diseases like traumatic brain injury (TBI). Barr's presentation will be titled, "An inflammatory profile for stroke diagnostics and outcome prediction: Evidence from gene expression profiling and implications for neurological disease."

Grand Rounds will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the NIH Clinical Center's Lipsett Amphitheater.

## **9. NIH Seeks Nominations of Outstanding Graduate Students to Meet Nobel Laureates**

The NIH urges its funded scientists to nominate their outstanding graduate students for an exciting opportunity to attend the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in Germany this summer, meet Nobel Laureates, and network with some of the brightest graduate students from around the globe.

The focus of the 2011 Lindau meeting will be Physiology or Medicine. The meeting will be held June 26-July 1, 2011. **Nominations are due November 1, 2010.**

More information about the Lindau Nobel Meetings is available at the following websites:

- General information from the official Web site: <http://lindau-nobel.de/WebHome.AxCMS>.
- U.S.-specific information on how to nominate students, etc. is at <http://www.oraui.org/lindau/>
- Videos on Nature's Web site, which will give you an excellent idea of what the Lindau meeting is all about: <http://www.nature.com/video/lindau2010/index.html>.
- Video diary from an American student who attended last year <http://www.youtube.com/user/NobelLaureateMeeting#p/u/4/m3IK8uIJftM>.

## **10. NIH OppNet Funding Opportunities, October Open Meeting**

NINR announces funding opportunities through OppNet, the NIH's Basic Behavioral and Social Science Research Opportunity Network. Researchers interested in learning more about OppNet are welcome to attend its upcoming open meeting, "OppNet: Expanding Opportunities in Basic Behavioral and Social Science Research," to be held on Thursday and Friday, October 28-29, 2010, in Washington, DC.

### **About OppNet:**

OppNet is a trans-NIH initiative that funds activities that build the collective body of knowledge about the nature of behavior and social systems, and that deepen our understanding of basic mechanisms of behavioral and social processes. All 24 NIH Institutes and Centers that fund research and four Program Offices within the NIH Office of the Director co-fund and co-manage OppNet.

OppNet makes each of its funding opportunities available through one of its 24 member Institutes and Centers (ICs). Consequently, the NIH IC that makes each FOA/RFA available to the public is not necessarily the NIH Institute or Center that ultimately will manage a funded OppNet project. For more information about OppNet, visit <http://oppnet.nih.gov>.

### **OppNet Funding Opportunities of Note:**

#### **RFA-DA-11-003: Effects of the social environment on health: Measurement, methods, and mechanisms (R01)**

This OppNet RFA solicits Research Project Grant (R01) applications from institutions/organizations that propose to investigate structural, behavioral, sociocultural, environmental, cognitive, emotional, and/or biological mechanisms through which the social environment affects health outcomes. To address this objective, applicants should propose research studies that will: (1) deepen our understanding of which aspects of social environments affect health outcomes for women and men at different stages of the lifecourse and in different social, economic, geographic, racial and ethnic sub-populations; (2) lead to a clearer understanding of mechanisms through which social environments have such effects; or (3) improve measurement methods and/or contribute to advances in analytic methods used in the study of social environments and health.

**Letter of intent receipt date: December 6, 2010**

**Application due date: January 6, 2011**

**For more information:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-11-003.html>

#### **RFA-AG-11-010: Basic Research on Self-Regulation (R21)**

This OppNet FOA solicits exploratory/developmental (R21) research applications examining basic mechanisms of self-regulation. The intent of this FOA is to advance research on basic processes and mechanisms of self-regulation, capitalizing on recent advances in methods and theory from the psychological (social, personality, developmental), economic, neuroscience, sociocultural, and other behavioral and social science literatures. The current lack of consistency and conceptual integration in how self-regulation is studied across a range of disciplines hinders our understanding of the basic mechanisms underlying many important health and developmental outcomes. Applications submitted to this FOA are expected to address one or more of the following basic behavioral and social science research (b-BSSR) challenges: (1) to precisely identify and operationally reconcile the basic processes and mechanisms involved in self-regulation of cognition, emotion, and behavior, and refine their

measurement and theoretical conceptualizations, (2) to assess relations among various self-regulatory functions and their sub-components, and (3) to systematically characterize changes in self-regulatory functions over time, across different social and environmental contexts, and across the lifespan in both men and women. Applications are expected to engage investigators working at multiple levels of analysis and across disparate literatures.

**Letter of intent receipt date: December 6, 2010**

**Application due date: January 6, 2011**

**For more information:** <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-11-010.html>

## **OppNet Meeting**

OppNet invites all its stakeholders to participate in a free, open meeting:

### **“OppNet: Expanding Opportunities in Basic Behavioral and Social Science Research”**

Thursday-Friday, October 28-29, 2010

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill

400 New Jersey Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 737-1234

<http://washingtonregency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/rooms/room-description.jsp>

Registration is free. Capacity is limited to 500 people. The Hyatt Regency has a limited block of rooms at government rate. The plenary sessions will be webcast live and archived on OppNet’s website; however, this option is not available for breakout sessions.

For more information including the preliminary meeting agenda, visit OppNet’s website, <http://oppnet.nih.gov/index.asp>. To register, visit [www.regonline.com/OppNet](http://www.regonline.com/OppNet).

Meeting participants will spend the majority of their time in interactive breakout sessions to discuss future directions in the basic social and behavioral sciences (b-BSSR) relevant to health. One set of sessions will focus on the following five themes that emerged from data submitted in response to OppNet’s January-February 2010 Request for Information (RFI):

- Cognition and emotion
- Culture
- Decision-making
- Development over the lifecourse
- Gene/environment interactions

A second set of interactive sessions will explore over-arching issues in the basic behavioral and social sciences:

- Use of b-BSSR advances in future applied research
- Model animals
- Neuroscience approaches in b-BSSR
- 21st Century trans-disciplinary approaches in b-BSSR

For more information, visit <http://oppnet.nih.gov> or email [infooppnet@nih.gov](mailto:infooppnet@nih.gov).

## **11. Upcoming Meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research**

The open session of the 73rd meeting of the National Advisory Council for Nursing Research (NACNR) will take place on January 18, 2011 from 1 to 5 p.m. in Conference Room 6C6, Building 31, C wing, on the NIH campus. Visitors are welcome to attend.

The NACNR meets three times a year to provide recommendations on the direction and support of the nursing, biomedical, social, and behavioral research that forms the evidence base for nursing practice.

More information about the NACNR is available online at

<http://www.ninr.nih.gov/AboutNINR/NACNR>.

Information on visiting the NIH campus is available online at

<http://www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm>.